

Sirkar tank bed in survey number 4560 in Neendakara (A) pakuthy.

82. *MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that the Sirkar tank bed in survey number 4560 in Neendakara (A) pakuthi in Agastisvaram taluk is irrigated by private persons; and

(b) whether there is any special reason for irrigating that tank bed?

MR. M. RAMACHANDRA RAO : (a) Survey No. 4560 in the Neendakara (A) Division pakuthi, Agastisvaram taluk, is not poramboke;

(b) This does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

Registry of land from the Southern Forest Division.

83. *MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Will the Government be pleased to state ;

(a) whether any land from the Southern Forest Division was, in 1113 or 1114, registered in the name of a private person ;

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, the area of the land registered ; and

(c) the name of the person to whom the land is registered?

MR. P. RAMAN PILLAI : (a) No.

(b) & (c) These do not arise in view of the answer to (a).

Transfer of Messrs. Gangadhara Menon and John Philipose from the Nagercoil Civil Jail to Alleppey sub-jail.

84. *MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : Will the Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Gangadhara Menon, B. A., B. L., and John Philipose, Ex-M. L. A., were transferred from the Nagercoil Civil Jail to Alleppey Sub-Jail during the last week of November 1939?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : Yes.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know why Messrs. Gangadhara Menon and John Philipose were transferred from the Nagercoil Civil Jail to Alleppey Sub-Jail?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : Because they gave trouble to the Government.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR : May I know the nature of the trouble they gave to Government?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : I shall briefly explain what has happened. At the time when these people were sent to the Nagercoil Civil Jail, instructions were issued that they should be treated as under-trial prisoners. Over and above that, special instructions had been given to supply them with the food they require, unobjectionable books and newspapers. As regards catering, the arrangements were that they should be given *Kanji*, *payar* and *chutney* in the morning and two meals with buttermilk, curries, chutney etc.

PRESIDENT : Did they not complain about mutton?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : Yes, Sir. I am coming to that.

[Mr. M. K. Nilakanta Aiyar.]

After they got this they began to complain about want of mutton. Mutton was then ordered to be given to them. They then wanted books and newspapers. Books and newspapers were allowed. They then demanded shaving sets. They were given shaving sets. Then they wanted *Uppunavu* or *Iddali*, and coffee. They were supplied with these also. Having got all these, they demanded hot water for bath. That was made available to them. In spite of all these compliances with their demands they continued to give trouble by conspiring amongst themselves. So Government thought that it was not desirable to keep them together.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR: May I know whether they were ever transferred and put in the Alleppey Police lock-up?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: They were transferred to Alleppey sub-jail.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala cum Agastisvaram*): May I know whether these things are allowed to ordinary undertrial prisoners?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: No, Sir.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Then what were the special reasons which weighed with Government for granting them these luxuries?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: They were not considered as ordinary prisoners. Being detainees they were given such conveniences and facilities to satisfy their needs.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Was it as the result of false threats that they would go to fast if such conveniences were not granted?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: To some extent the member is correct.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: To what extent is it correct? What is the nature of the method adopted by them to get the demands allowed? Let me have an idea of it?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: The Government thought it proper and reasonable to comply with their reasonable requests. They went on satisfying their demands one by one but subsequently when they found the demands unreasonable they had to say 'no'. The men then resorted to hunger strike.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether these prisoners are not using very very abusive languages with the officers who visit them?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Yes, Sir, they do so.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know whether the honourable member is not aware that they abuse even the non-officials who visit them?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Yes, Sir, I am aware.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Are they given the conveniences even now?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR: Yes.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Do they not make complaints yet?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : There are no complaints now.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I know the expenditure met by Government on this account?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : On an average half a rupee a day per head.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : May I know whether it is a fact that special arrangements are made with regard to their catering by appointing a cook?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : Yes, Sir, in some places.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : What is the special reason for the Government to do all these things for them? Is it because the Government are weak?

MR. M. K. NILAKANTA AIYAR : That is a matter of opinion. The Government were of the view that better sense will prevail in the end.

PRESIDENT : I do not think further questions are called for on this subject. These gentlemen were proceeded against under the provision contained in the Defence of Travancore and connected Rules. The ordinary rules regarding prisoners are not strictly applicable in this case. These gentlemen made certain applications to the effect that they should be treated as what is called political prisoners. But there was no such classification as political prisoners under the law here; but having regard to the fact that ordinary jail rules are inapplicable to detainees and having regard to the fact that they were taken to be Satyagrahis, a certain amount of consideration was shown to them. One of the rules of Satyagraha, as expounded by its originator, is that no Satyagrahi should complain about treatment in jails. But these people were continuously making unfounded complaints, and they threatened hunger strike more than once. In order to get rid of the possibility of complaints and to see exactly how far the Satyagrahis would go on with their complaints, changes of clothing, which were not within the rules and fresh mattresses were given to them. They demanded mutton which was given to them though under the ordinary rules it need not be given; they demanded also, coffee *Iddali* or *Uppumavu* instead of *Kanji*. Then they began to complain that the climate of Nagercoil did not suit them. Though other people who lived in Nagercoil were not suffering from any complaints they complained and began to smuggle letters outside indirectly that their health suffered by reason of their treatment. The juxtaposition of the Satyagrahi prisoners who behaved in this manner was thought to be not desirable and so Government considered it necessary to have a division of these persons.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI : In view of the proximity of the civil jail to the Municipal Office, may I know whether they could not be removed to some other place?

PRESIDENT : It is a matter of future policy.